

REMARKS

In the Office Action identified above, the Examiner rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burrows (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,530) in view of Maehashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,641), and allowed claims 14, 15, and 30.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 14, 15, and 30 are allowed. Applicants believe claim 31 also includes allowable subject matter. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claim 31 without prejudice or disclaimer.

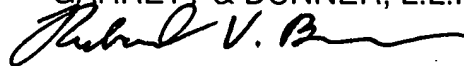
All remaining claims have been allowed. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance in this application.

If there are any remaining issues or misunderstandings, Applicant requests the Examiner telephone the undersigned representative to discuss them.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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